

ESTABLISHED 1861.

SPRING BLOUSES

Two features mark the smart blouses for the spring, one the blouse full sleeves, the other the prevalence of the front fastening, with its open throat effect. No matter how high the lace rills or the turtleneck collar may extend under the hair, at the back, the throat is left open, and, in fact, on some of the new blouses, a simulated neg-gee effect is achieved by the introduction of buttons and buttonholes on the lapels, falling away from the throat, as if the blouse had been carelessly left unbuttoned to show the soft lines of the chin and neck.

Of sleeves, there is as infinite variety, but they all have much the same characteristics inasmuch as all are set into wide armholes and are closely brought in about the waist sometimes with ruffles and sometimes with plain turnback cuffs.

On many of the blouses for the spring the sleeves are cut in with the yoke, on others the sleeves and side gores running to the waistline are cut in one piece; in some, the long shoulder and set-on sleeve may be noted, but very few have the ordinary simple shoulder and plain sleeve worn during the winter.

In Colors.

The vogue of the all-white waists is also going out, for the new blouses are in pale tints, yellow predominating, while crepe de chine and the soft cotton crepe are first in favor as materials.

Another notable feature of these early blouses for spring is the "outside" finish, most of the blouses being made so as to come down outside the skirt, sometimes forming a little buttoned vest, and sometimes merely ending in ash-like loops or fastening snugly with a single buckle covered with the material.

They are all far more elaborate than in former seasons, but the frill both single and double has been set aside. Its death knell has been sounded by the introduction of the winter suits buttoning close up about the throat and now with spring at hand the little waistcoat is so popular that frill has been definitely set aside.

With it has gone the deep sailor collar, the new blouses all showing either a high flaring collar or a flat, narrow one of soft material and in some instances the neck is finished simply with a band of the material with frill of net inside to lend a soft finish close to the skin.

All Are Sheer.

Of course, all the blouses are very sheer and delicate, and most of them require dainty camisoles to match underneath, but they are very lovely and only a few trimly-tailored shirt-waists are now seen for the woman who insists upon that kind. Even the mannish tailored shirt of silk with its collar to match has been relegated to the bargain counters and the new blouses elaborately buttoned with their novel, slightly-full sleeves and quaint effects reign supreme in the feminine world.

Some of the new smart blouses are made of crepe woven in the new lacquer embroidery effect in combination with a ladder pattern. These blouses are often finished with pendant bead and braid ornaments in antique Chinese colors, which are matched by the long strings of Chinese beads which fast of silk women are wearing so much this season.

Some of the new blouses lend a quaint appearance of a lady's being in her shirt sleeves, since the vest-like body of the garment is of colors usually of the new sweet pea tints, while the loose full sleeves and

THE NEWEST BLOUSES



rolling collar with a tiny vest are of softest batiste in white. These are particularly attractive to wear with the new open-front tailored suits for the spring and will probably be very popular here as they are already abroad.

Cassock blouses are also to the fore this spring, these waists being a modified version of the "peplum" blouse of former seasons. They are cut with the waist and sleeve all in one, the seams running down the

shoulder, where they are usually fastened with tiny buttons. A closely-fitting pointed peplum fastens on the blouse with a corded band, making the waist line. The sleeves, which end at the elbow, have under-sleeves of net that reach to the wrist, while net frills fill in the V-shaped neck.

But one might go on indefinitely telling of the blouses, for their variety is infinite, their charm indescribable and their colors rarely lovely.

The new lingerie that Paris is showing for spring, and even the American garments are really as one woman put it, "so pretty we have to wear transparent blouses and split skirts to show them." Certain it is that the brassieres and camisoles to say nothing of the petticoats for 1914 are things of beauty that will prove "a joy forever" to the feminine heart.

The old-fashioned chemise is now a thing of the past, lovely brassieres

in delicate laces and pale-tinted crepe de chine and silken knickerbockers topped by a chiffon or thin crepe de chine petticoat form milady's lingerie for all occasions, though she probably wears heavier satin or taffeta bloomers under her tailored suit.

The bloomers that on sees on every side are really a revival of a fashion popular in London some twelve or fifteen years ago, and they are certainly comfortable and trim

enough to suit any woman, at the same time making it possible to have the skirt very narrow around the ankles.

New Brassieres.

The brassieres for spring are of linen and heavy crocheted lace in some instances, while others are of lace and silk with ribbon straps over the shoulders. A touch of color is introduced on nearly all of them in the shape of tiny rose buds or em-

broideries, and while there is a difference between camisoles and brassieres in so much that the former are not boned and are drawn in with ribbons, they are both equally elaborate this spring.

Many of the Paris dealers in lingerie are showing the soft lace panties to wear under the split skirt for evening, while long Turkish trousers of silk with deep ruffles of lace over the ankles are also shown though they are not likely to be very popular.

The new petticoats fit as closely as trousers down the legs now, but have a very full-plaited ruffle about the feet, though of such soft batiste it takes up only a little room, but for evening gowns and dance frocks all the petticoats are plaited.

Transparent Effects.

There is a great vogue year for transparent underwear and the use of net for the tops of combinations made up over pale pink batiste is noticed on every side, while the lace of the year are very sheer and used in great profusion in often whole garments being made of lace and net and beading.

This semi-nude effect, as they term it in Paris, is noticeable not only in the muslin underwear, but also in the corsets, the new very flexible ones with elastic in place of bones barely extending above the waist line and being in most instances of flesh pink that matches the skin in color and lends a strikingly nude appearance to the woman in her gauzy lingerie and transparent blouse.

All the smart corsetiers are using this flesh pink material for their corsets and also for the brassieres, while many of the new corsets have a lace top to them.

Of course, it is to the vogue of the dance that we owe the new flexible corsets, the latest models having no bones even down the front and being without clasps. This makes it necessary with some models to draw the corset on over the feet, facing it into position after it is in place. In other instances the corsets button down the front, the elastic tissues clinging closely to the figure, though for stout women the corset has a boned front panel that will be found more becoming.

Short Corsets.

Corsets are much shorter this year than ever before, they extend scarcely more than an inch or so above the waist line and the apron is short enough to give the wearer entire freedom of movement for walking or dancing. Some of the new short models for sportswomen are of rubber with a front gore of silk jersey and with only one pair of garters to hold them in place. In fact, there is some talk of abolishing the garter on the corset in favor of the round garter, since the latter allows so much more freedom of movement and the new elastic corsets are not prone to slip up, the way the stiffly boned ones of last season did. And it may not come amiss to mention here that some of the new corsets have dress shields attached to them. These new shields that may also be bought separately are of flesh color and are scarcely noticeable when on.

Princess slips, elaborately lovely, will be worn under most of the summer frocks and as some of these slips combine petticoat, drawers and camisole all in one garment they are delightfully cool and comfortable for the warm days, and in a color to match the gown are a delightful adjunct to milady's wardrobe.

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